

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 038940 TOSEC 020151
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JMORDWAY
APPROVED BY S/PRS: JMORDWAY
S/S - MR. GAMBLE

-----191912 114716 /41

O 191845Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 038940 TOSEC 020151

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, SAT, FEB 19

NO. 23

NEWSPAPERS

NOTE: ONLY POST, TIMES AND SUN AVAILABLE DEPT ON SATURDAY

NEW YORK TIMES

PAGE ONE STORY "US TRIES TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF REPORT ON
CIA AID TO HUSSEIN" BY CHARLES MOHR FROM WASHINGTON, WITH
PICTURE OF VANCE AND HUSSEIN, IN SEPTEL. GWERTZMAN STORY
FROM AMMAN PAGE 9. HEADLINE: "VANCE LAUDS SADAT DEC-
LARATION"

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE SAID TODAY THAT
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PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT'S LATEST PROPOSAL FOR A PALES-
TINIAN-JORDANIAN LINK HAD NARROWED THE GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL
AND THE ARAB STATES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA. HE ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT 'MAJOR DIFFERENCES' REMAINED."

OTHER POINTS:

-- AT NEWS CONF ABOARD HIS AIR FORCE PLANE, VANCE SEEMED
PLEASED WITH SADAT PROPOSAL, WHICH SHOWED 'MORE FLEXI-
BILITY' THAN THOUGHT.

-- VANCE HAD 'FEELING' EGYPTIANS WERE EXERTING PRESSURE ON PLO TO CHANGE CHARTER.

-- VANCE SPENT FIVE HOURS IN BEIRUT, ANNOUNCING AID PACKAGE AND MEETING WITH SARKIS.

-- ARRIVED JORDAN TO MEET WITH HUSSEIN.

-- JORDAN IS BEING ASKED TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE.

-- AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID SADAT, SPEAKING FOR ARABS, WANTED TO PUT PALESTINIANS IN A JORDAN DELEGATION AND MAKE IT CLEAR THERE WOULD NOT BE A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE.

-- VANCE SAID MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN. A VANCE AIDE SAID

IT'S UP TO ISRAELIS TO RESPOND.

BALTIMORE SUN

STORY ON PAGE 2, WITH PICTURE. HEADLINE: "VANCE GIVES SADAT PROPOSAL TENTATIVE BACKING"

HENRY TREWHITT FROM AMMAN

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LEAD: "WITH A TENTATIVE ENDORSEMENT, CYRUS R. VANCE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ADDED MOMENTUM YESTERDAY TO AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR CONFEDERATION OF JORDAN AND A FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE CALLED PLAN CONSTRUCTIVE AND SAID IT BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARD ISRAELI CONDITIONS.

-- A CRITICAL ASPECT OF SADAT PLAN WAS TIMING: PLO AND HUSSEIN TO AGREE ON TERMS BEFORE GENEVA CONF.

-- UNDER SADAT PROPOSAL, PLO WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ABSORBED INTO THE NEW POLITICAL ENTITY, THOUGH LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE UNCHANGED.

-- UNCERTAIN HOW ISRAEL WILL REACT, BUT SOME ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED SIMILAR SOLUTION, EXCEPT FOR REJECTION OF PLO.

-- VANCE THINKS DIFFERENCES NARROWING AND CONVINCED SADAT EAGER FOR SOLUTION. VANCE BELIEVES SADAT WILL USE INFLUENCE ON PLO TO CHANGE ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL.

-- AMERICAN AND JORDANIAN OFFICIALS WORRIED ABOUT CIA STORY. NO ONE SURPRISED, BUT POLITICAL EFFECT COULD BE CONSIDERABLE.

-- AMERICANS MOST PLEASED BY PRESSURE ON ALL PRINCIPALS TO REASSESS THEIR POSITIONS. VANCE ENCOURAGED BY "GIVE" SHOWN IN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

-- BUT, "PROCEDURAL" QUESTIONS ARE SUBSTANTIVE IN MIDEAST.

-- FOUR-HOUR STOP IN LEBANON FIT INTO PEACEMAKING CONTEXT.
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HEAVILY ARMED SYRIAN TROOPS ESCORTED VANCE'S PARTY, FOLLOWING RUNDABOUT ROUTE TO AVOID REFUGEE CAMPS.

-- "FROM VERANDA OF PRESIDENTIAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE HILLS ABOVE THE CITY, THE DEVASTATION OF LEBANON'S CIVIL WAR WAS HARDLY NOTICEABLE."

-- VANCE PLEDGED DOLLARS 50 MILLION FOR LEBANON'S RECOVERY.

WASHINGTON POST

STORY ON PAGE ONE. HEADLINE: "JORDAN: STORY A 'FABRICATION, DISTORTION'"

DON OBERDORFER FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "THE JORDANIAN GOVT TODAY DENOUNCED AS 'A COMBINATION OF FABRICATION AND DISTORTION' A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS RECEIVED SECRET CIA PAYMENTS FOR 20 YEARS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- EXCEPT FOR STATEMENT, JORDANIAN AND US OFFICIALS MAINTAINED DISCREET DIPLOMATIC SILENCE.

-- VANCE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON STORY.

-- US OFFICIALS TRAVELING WITH VANCE "MADE NO SECRET OF THEIR DISMAY" ON TIMING OF STORY. VANCE KNEW OF POST

INQUIRIES FOR 3-4 DAYS, BUT ONLY LEARNED THIS MORNING THAT IT WAS BEING PUBLISHED.

-- NO DOUBT THAT DISCLOSURE COMPLICATED MISSION. "UN-
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OFFICIAL PALESTINIAN SOURCES" SAID MIGHT MAKE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND PLO MORE DIFFICULT.

-- QUOTED JORDANIAN GOVT STATEMENT.

-- VANCE CALLED SADAT PLAN "CONSTRUCTIVE," NARROWING GAP BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS. APPEARED TO VANCE PLAN HAD SUPPORT OF "SOME OF PLO."

-- BEIRUT STOPOVER: NEW AID ANNOUNCEMENT; ARAB PEACE-KEEPING FORCE GUARDING VANCE (WITH SOVIET WEAPONS.) SOVIET DELEGATION AND FRENCH FM GUIRINGAUD ALSO IN BEIRUT.

WIRES

REUTERS

NO BYLINE, FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "EGYPT'S PROPOSAL THAT A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN CONFEDERATION BE FORMED BEFORE THE GENEVA PEACE TALKS WAS APPARENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO KING HUSSEIN, MEMBERS OF SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE'S PARTY SAID HERE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF PALESTINIAN LEADERS WILL SUPPORT IDEA.

-- VANCE ARRIVED AMMAN AMID FUROR OVER WASH POST ARTICLE.

-- OFFICIAL JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN QUOTED ON ARTICLE.

-- VANCE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ARTICLE.

-- VANCE DESCRIBED SADAT PROPOSAL AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES.

-- VANCE FELT EGYPT WAS PRESSURING PLO TO MODIFY CHARTER.

UPI

JIM ANDERSON FROM RIYADH

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, WHOSE MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION HAS BEEN CLOUDED BY REPORTS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS TODAY ARRIVED IN RIYADH FOR TALKS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- IN AMMAN, VANCE PLEDGED CONTINUED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR HUSSEIN.

-- ON PLANE TO RIYADH, OFFICIALS RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT LEBANON WILL BE INVITED TO FUTURE MIDEAST PEACE TALKS.

-- OFFICIALS ON PLANE AGAIN REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT WASHPOST STORY.

-- VANCE QUOTED PRAISING HUSSEIN.

-- AT VANCE'S SECOND MEETING WITH HUSSEIN, REPORTERS WERE KEPT AWAY FROM PICTURE SESSION. NO COMMENT FROM HUSSEIN ON WASHPOST STORY.

EARLIER ANDERSON PIECE FROM AMMAN CONTAINED THESE POINTS:

-- US OFFICIAL ON PLANE -- NOT VANCE -- SAID WASHPOST STORY WILL AFFECT SENSITIVE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, SIMPLY BY BEING AIRED. REPORT COULD NOT HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME.
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-- DIPLOMATS SAID POST CHARGE EXPECTED TO GIVE AMMUNITION TO HUSSEIN'S MANY POLITICAL ENEMIES AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR MODERATES TO SUPPORT HIM.

AP

NO STORY RAN ON CITY WIRE THIS MORNING

TELEVISION AND RADIO:

CBS RADIO FROM AMMAN (KALB) AND STRAWSER:
STRAWSER: ONE OFFICIAL TRAVELING WITH SECSTATE SAID TODAY THAT REPORTS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN WILL AFFECT ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. IF THEY HAD, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL TODAY BECAUSE REPORTERS WERE KEPT FAR AWAY DURING SECOND AND FINAL MTG BETWEEN VANCE AND HUSSEIN IN AMMAN. AND FOR TRAVELING SECRETARY NOW, FOCUS BECOMES SAUDI ARABIA FOR REASONS EXPLAINED BY B. KALB.

KALB: NO DIPLOMATIC JOURNEY TO ME WOULD EVEN BE WORTH MAKING WITHOUT A STOPOVER IN SAUDI ARABIA. THAT'S BECAUSE SAUDIS HAVE ENORMOUS CLOUT BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE ARAB WORLD. AND THAT IS BECAUSE SAUDIS HAVE OIL, IN FACT, BIGGEST PATROLEUM RESERVES IN WORLD. OIL HAS ENDOWED DAUDIS WITH GROWING POWER AS A DECISION-MAKER IN THIS PART OF WORLD. WHAT SAUDIS WANT SAUDIS GET IS A BIT ON AN

OVERSTATEMENT, BUT THEIR INFLUENCE IS GROWING THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. THEY CAN HELP SHAPE FUTURE OF THIS AREA, AND U.S. IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS GOOD RELNS WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN SEARCH FOR AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. BUT THERE'S A SAUDI PRICE ATTACHED TO THIS. SAUDIS EMBARGOED OIL TO U.S. DURING 1973 ME WAR. MORE RECENTLY, WHEN OPEC OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES BOOSTED THEIR PRICES, SAUDIS UNILATERALLY CAME OUT FOR A LOWER PRICE BOOST. BUT THEY MADE IT CLEAR TO U.S. THAT THEY EXPECTED A SHOW OF APPRECIATION.
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THAT TRANSLATES INTO APPLYING U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, SECRETARY VANCE, IN HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA TODAY, HAS A FAIRLY FULL AGENDA.

ABC RADIO (DUNSMORE): ANCHORMAN: AT THIS HOUR, U.S. IS APPARENTLY NOT GOING TO LET SECRET CIA PAYMENTS TO JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN ERODE RELNS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND AMMAN. REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN RECEIVED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM CIA HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED FOR ABC NEWS BY FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN HARRISON SIMS. SECSTATE CONCLUDED MTGS WITH HUSSEIN IN AMMAN THIS MORNING BY PROMISING KING CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT, AND BY ANNOUNCING KING WOULD VISIT U.S. IN APRIL. VANCE HAS SINCE BEGUN ANOTHER LEG OF HIS ME SHUTTLE, AS ABC'S CORRESPONDENT DUNSMORE REPORTS FROM RIYADH.

DUNSMORE: SECRETARY ARRIVED HERE IN S.A. TO DISCUSS NOT INCONSIDERABLE S.A. ROLE IN FUTURE ME DIPLOMACY. IT WAS SAUDI MONEY AND DIPLOMATIC CLOUT WHICH BROUGHT AN END TO LEBANESE CIVIL WAR, AND SAUDIS HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITH PLO. ONE OF PROBLEMS IN U.S.-SAUDI RELNSHIP, HOWEVER, IS PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PREVENT U.S. COMPANIES FROM PARTICIPATING IN ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. SOME U.S. COMPANIES PRESENTLY COMPLY WITH THAT BOYCOTT SIMPLY BY DECLARING, WHEN SELLING GOODS TO S.A., THAT COMPONENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE IN ISRAEL.

NBC RADIO FROM RIYADH (VALERIANI): ANCHORMAN: SECSTATE HAS BROUGHT HIS ME FACTFINDING TRIP TO RIYADH, CAPITAL OF S.A. VANCE'S PREVIOUS STOP WAS IN AMMAN. WE GET MORE ON THAT STORY FROM VALERIANI.

VALERIANI: SECSTATE LEFT JORDAN WITH A WARNING FROM KING HUSSEIN NOT TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MAKING EARLY PROGRESS TOWARD A ME SETTLEMENT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS TOLD
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NEWSMEN ON VANCE'S PLANE KING WAS CONCERNED THAT OVER-

OPTIMISM ABOUT RECONVENING GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, AND
THEN SETTLING ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE THERE, COULD LEAD TO
RAISED EXPECTATIONS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE FULFILLED, AND
THAT, IN TURN, WOULD BE UNHELPFUL AND DANGEROUS.

HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3234072
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, SAT, FEB 19
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a54e1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009